From: Simmons, Denise
To: Melvin Scovell
Subject: Re:
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9:54:26 AM

Dear Lilla Waltch and Melvin Scovell,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither of these scenarios is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Melvin Scovell <melscov@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9:34 AM
To: McGovern, Marc; Carlone, Dennis; Devereux, Jan; Kelley, Craig; Mallon, Alanna; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Simmons, Denise; Toomey, Tim; Zondervan, Quinton
Subject:

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

We are residents of Cambridge who are asking you to turn down the BBD proposal to boycott HP for doing business with Israel. There are a lot of reasons why the City of Cambridge should not be involved in a boycott attacking Israel, but we believe the main reason is that both Israel and the Palestinians need to come in good faith to the negotiating table, and a unilateral action against Israel will not be effective toward that end.

Sincerely,

Lilla Waltch and Melvin Scovell

975 Memorial Dr, Apt 607, 02138